



Catherine Petty

January 28, 1917 - April 19, 2017

Catherine "Katy" Petty passed away on Thursday April 20, while under the loving care of Sojourn Hospice at Park Visalia Senior Assisted Living.

A resident of Visalia since 1946, Katy had celebrated her 100th birthday just this past January.

Born in Pueblo, Colorado to Ombra and Arthur Bliesner in 1917, Katy was the next to oldest of six children. All of her siblings preceded her in death.

Katy's family moved to Fresno in the mid-1930's at the height of the Great Depression. She attended Fresno State College and worked at her parents' cafe, The Polar, where she met her future husband, Roy Petty.

The young couple fell in love and in January of 1939 drove to Yuma, Arizona where they were married.

Daughter Judy Mayfield was born in 1940, sons Jim and Jack followed in 1944 and 1945 while Roy served in the United States Army.

After World War II ended the family moved to Visalia in January of 1946 where Roy worked as Service and Parts Manager at what was then Shepherd-Ford Chevrolet. In 1955 Roy became the General Manager of what was then Gene Ford Chevrolet.

Always at her husband's side, Katy busied herself raising their children. She worked tirelessly as a volunteer at the Methodist church, as a Girl Scout and Cub Scout leader and PTA volunteer. Katy devoted her life to her family.

In 1959 Roy became part owner of the Chevrolet dealership and in 1961 became sole owner of Giant Chevrolet Company.

Roy and Katy enjoyed traveling for a number of years. Among other places, they visited London, Paris, Switzerland, Italy, Greece, Brazil and China. Hawaii was another favorite place of theirs to visit.

Roy preceded Katy in death, passing away in 1987. Since then Katy devoted herself to her home garden and to her various clubs--Women's Civic Club, Garden Club, Nile Club--and to her church. At her death she had been a member of The Visalia United Methodist Church for 71 years.

Katy is survived by her three children--Judy, Jim and Jack, by 11 grandchildren, numerous great-grandchildren and several great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at 12 noon on Thursday, April 27th at Salser and Dillard Funeral Chapel followed by a graveside service at Visalia District Cemetery. Long time pastor and dear family friend, Reverend Harry Wood will officiate. Condolences can be made to www.salseranddillard.com

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **26**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (PT)

Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel
127 E. Caldwell Ave
Visalia, CA 93277
(559) 635-1144
info@salseranddillard.com
<https://www.salseranddillard.com>

Service

APR **27**. 12:00 PM (PT)

Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel
127 E. Caldwell Ave
Visalia, CA 93277
(559) 635-1144
info@salseranddillard.com
<https://www.salseranddillard.com>

Tribute Wall

SP

“ *My memories of Katy date back to the 50's. Judy and I were friends and I went to her home often.*

Katy was always so gracious and welcoming. She had quite the sense of humor.

I am sure she will be missed by so many friends in the area.

My condolences go to the Mayfield and Petty families.

May Katy R.I.P.

Yours Sincerely, Jack and Sara Peters

Sara Peters - May 05, 2017 at 07:03 PM

KB

“ *My Mom, Virginia, Gin Kneeland was a good friend and bridge club member in many Clubs they were in together at the Depot and at the Country Club. I joined the clubs about 20 years ago. I got to know Katy and*

we always had a good time lunching

and playing bridge together. Mom turned 100 in January as well.

They always had

that in common. One day apart. We will miss Katy. We have thought of her often.

She will stay in our hearts. Yours Sincerely, Karen Baker and Gin Kneeland.

We are so sorry for your loss.



Karen E Baker - April 22, 2017 at 05:31 PM

GP

“ *She was always a proud and gracious lady, had great respect for her.*

Geneva Philpot

Geneva Philpot - April 22, 2017 at 05:15 PM

CH

“ *Prayers to the family. Carolyn Harrison*



Carolyn Harrison - April 22, 2017 at 12:08 PM